

# VOGUE

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## ASIAN FLAVOURS

aos, Hong Kong,  
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## WARMING SOUPS



IT'S WINTER

# HONEY SWEET



HEESE + COOKING WITH SRI OWEN + BIMBADGEN WINERY + K.TI'S PLACE



## SHOPS

Funky packaging and contemporary graphics in hot colours are T2's signature.

# Hip to sip

A new generation of tea drinkers are pouring into T2, where two modern-day tea traders are redefining the ritual of tea drinking.

If you believe the legend, the refreshing and rejuvenating qualities of tea were discovered quite by accident. A leaf from the modest *Camellia sinensis* blew into the Chinese emperor Shen Nung's cup of water, and an export industry of unprecedented scale was born.

Two latter-day tea traders, Jan O'Connor and Maryanne Shearer, have taken up the 3000-year-old mantle and are redefining the Australian notion of the 'cuppa'. Three years ago Jan and Maryanne opened their first specialist tea store, T2, in Melbourne's Fitzroy. Their funky packaging, contemporary graphics and 200 tea blends, such as mellow mango, ruby red rosehip and fruit blush, seduced a new generation of tea drinkers.

A time-honoured tradition cast off its fuddy-duddiness. Suddenly it was hip to sip. T2 supplies more than 300 cafes and restaurants around Melbourne and the T2 Tea Bar cafe and Tea Emporium have recently opened at Chadstone in Melbourne.

Tea drinking has always encouraged ritual, whether it is the harmony and

exquisite detail of the Japanese *sukiya* ceremony, or the boisterous showmanship of the Moroccan tea boys who pour mint tea into gold-rimmed glasses from impossible heights.

T2 has the accoutrements for them all: Russian samovars, Turkish chai glasses, spicy Indian tea, infusers, tea-balls and cast-iron Japanese teapots.

"Australians are very adventurous and travel more than any other nationality," says Jan, "they talk about teas they have tried when they were away, and drinking it here is a way of reminiscing or reliving their travel experiences."

For Jan, the new Chadstone store is about restoring ritual into the way we enjoy tea, focusing on the sensory experience. "We show you how to prepare all types of teas," she explains, "you can smell them, touch them and, of course, taste them if you want."

T2 has regular tastings, and the new Tea Bar, with its bewitching light and mesmerising rituals promotes a more contemplative break than an espresso bar ever could. **Text: Andrew Anastasios**

## Tea shops

Our national guide to specialist tea shops

### MELBOURNE

- **Tea Too/ T2** Chadstone Shopping Centre, Chadstone, tel (03) 9530 4105; also at 340 Brunswick St, Fitzroy, tel (03) 9417 3722.
- **Tea Corporation** 45 Porter St, Prahran, tel (03) 9530 2088. Pure teas bought directly from the places of origin, such as English Breakfast – a blend of two pure, single-estate teas.
- **Larsen & Thompson** 28-30 Brunswick St, Fitzroy, tel (03) 9417 3588. Mainly Indian teas, imported directly from Assam, Darjeeling and Nilgiri.
- **Husk** 557 Malvern Rd, Toorak, tel (03) 9827 2700. Spicy teas, as well as black and green tea blends.
- **Geisha** Level 1, 285 Little Collins St, tel (03) 9663 5544. Japanese therapy centre – sip tea in the tea room, or take the cherry, mango or vanilla sencha home.

### SYDNEY

- **CRP Trading Company** Unit G6, 2a Victoria Ave, Castle Hill, tel (02) 9680 9117. Open, Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-3pm. It offers 200 teas, including fruit and herbal teas from German Wollenhaupt.
- **Live Craft Centre** 84 Dixon St, Haymarket, tel (02) 9281 2828. A Chinese tea shop, such as you would find in Hong Kong and China. Six types of tea – black, green, yellow, flower, white and clear – are all sold by Chinese weight, the *ta*.
- **Penelope Sach Clinic and Herbal Teas** 2 Moncur St, Woollahra, tel (02) 9362 3339. Penelope Sach's philosophy is: 'proper fluid intake'. She sells her organic, designer range from the showroom.
- **The Tea Centre** The Glasshouse, 146 Pitt St Mall, Sydney, tel (02) 9223 9909. [www.thetea-centre.com.au](http://www.thetea-centre.com.au) 180 teas, including specialty teas from classic black to green and herbal infusions. Enjoy a cuppa after browsing.
- **Tea Temple** Shop 24, Level 2, QVB, Sydney, tel (02) 9267 0582. [www.teatemple.com.au](http://www.teatemple.com.au) Contemporary tea room and tea store presenting teas from around the world, and tea accoutrements.

### ADELAIDE

- **T Bar** 44 Gouger St, Adelaide, tel (08) 8410 5522. This stylised mod-Mao shop sells 120 different loose leaf teas and tea accessories, and serves light lunches and teas.
- **Castle Coffee and Tea Stall** 14, Central Market, Adelaide, tel (08) 8212 7300. Stocks 40-50 of the world's finest teas, such as herbal, black, organic and green (loose and packaged).
- **The Perfect Cup** Shop 26, Central Market Arcade, Adelaide, tel (08) 8231 1932. 200. Black, green and herbal teas.

### HOBART

- **Jeffersons Tea** Upper Level, Shop 19, Cat and Fiddle Arcade, Murray St, Hobart, tel (03) 6236 9769. 120 teas, including green, black, oolong, fruit, herbal, and tea paraphernalia. Wholesaled nationally.

### PERTH

- **Merchant Tea and Coffee Company** 3-4, 162 Rokeby Rd, Subiaco, tel (08) 9388 7272. Everything from single-estate teas to herbal infusions and blends.
- **Merchant Tea and Coffee Company** 183 Murray St, Perth, tel (08) 9221 1323. Different company – same name. It has a coffee lounge and sells 22 different varieties of tea.
- **Coffee and Tea Supplies of WA** 93 Pavers Circle, Malaga, tel (08) 9248 1500. 40 different varieties plus Tche Villa (its own brand of tea).
- **Tea for Me** Shop 3, 94 Rokeby Road (cnr Churchill Ave), Subiaco, (08) 9380 9377. Sri Lankan tea specialist, with everything from single estate black, green or white teas to fruit flavours.

